

Senate Study Bill 3207 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON FEENSTRA)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a tree and forest advisory council.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 455A.14 Tree and forest advisory
2 council.

3 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
4 otherwise requires, "council" means the Iowa tree and forest
5 advisory council.

6 2. a. The council shall be organized with assistance from
7 the department and shall be composed of thirteen voting members
8 and one ex officio, nonvoting member as follows:

9 (1) The director or the director's designee, who shall serve
10 as the ex officio, nonvoting member.

11 (2) Thirteen persons appointed by the natural resource
12 commission, with one member representing each of the following
13 organizations or industries:

14 (a) The northeast Iowa forestry advisory committee.

15 (b) Trees forever.

16 (c) The lumber industry whose member is actively engaged in
17 the purchase of standing timber.

18 (d) The Iowa woodland owners association.

19 (e) The Iowa state university extension forester.

20 (f) The Iowa nut growers association.

21 (g) The Iowa natural heritage foundation.

22 (h) The Iowa urban tree council.

23 (i) The society of American foresters.

24 (j) The Iowa nursery and landscape association.

25 (k) Conservation districts of Iowa.

26 (l) The Iowa assessors association.

27 (m) The forestry industry whose member is actively
28 employed in Iowa in private forest management or as a forestry
29 consultant.

30 b. The director shall provide the natural resource
31 commission with recommendations for nominations of prospective
32 council members. The commission shall approve nominees at a
33 regularly scheduled commission meeting.

34 c. The voting members of the council shall elect a
35 chairperson at the first council meeting of each year. If the

1 chairperson position becomes vacant, the voting members of
2 the council shall elect a new chairperson at the next council
3 meeting who shall serve as the chairperson for the remainder
4 of the year.

5 3. *a.* The term of a voting member of the council shall be
6 three years.

7 *b.* A vacancy on the council shall be filled by a
8 representative of the same organization or industry whose
9 position has become vacant for the remainder of the original
10 term.

11 *c.* A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum
12 and the affirmative vote of a majority present is necessary for
13 any action taken by the council, except that a lesser number
14 may adjourn a meeting. A vacancy in the membership of the
15 council does not impair the rights of a quorum to exercise all
16 rights and perform all duties of the council.

17 *d.* The council shall meet as required, but at least
18 twice each year. The council shall meet upon the call of the
19 chairperson or upon written request of three members of the
20 council. Written notice of the time and place of the meeting
21 shall be given to each member.

22 4. The council shall advise and make recommendations to
23 the department, the natural resource commission, the governor,
24 the chairperson of the senate standing committee on natural
25 resources and environment, and the chairperson of the house
26 of representatives standing committee on natural resources on
27 matters relating to tree and forest health, the organization
28 of forestry services within the department, and legislation
29 under consideration relating to forestry. Any recommendations
30 shall be made at the regularly scheduled natural resource
31 commission meeting in July of each year. The council shall
32 research forestry issues that include but are not limited to
33 the following:

34 *a.* Property tax exemptions related to forest reservations.

35 *b.* Organizational efficiencies to address threats to

